

Message Text

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ACTION EB-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-08 ISO-00 FEA-01 AEC-05 AID-05 CEA-01

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INT-05 L-01 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-03 RSC-01 SAM-01

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5404

INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

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C O N F I D E N T I A L LONDON 14443

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ENRG

SUBJECT: IEP: PRESS HERALDS PARLIAMENTARY OPPOSITION
TO BRITISH APPROVAL

SUMMARY: AS MAIN LINES OF IEP BECOME PUBLIC, OPPOSITION
ALONG PREDICTABLE LINES IS APPEARING IN POLITICAL AND
PRESS CIRCLES. HOWEVER, KNOWLEDGEABLE OFFICIALS BELIEVE
GOVERNMENT WILL BE ABLE TO HANDLE ANY PARLIAMENTARY
DIFFICULTIES. END SUMMARY

BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED

1. "SUNDAY TIMES" OF NOVEMBER 3 REPORTS LORD KENNET,
FORMER LABOR JUNIOR MINISTER, PLANS TO OPPOSE IEP IN

NOVEMBER 5 HOUSE OF LORDS DEBATE ON ENERGY AND FOREIGN
AFFAIRS. KENNET IS QUOTED AS SAYING IEP "CEDES EVEN
MORE POWER TO A SUPRANATIONAL BODY THAN THE TREATY OF
ROME" AND THAT BRITAIN SHOULD FOLLOW EXAMPLE OF NORWAY
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AND WITHDRAW.

2. NOVEMBER 4 "TIMES" OBSERVES THAT NORWAY'S DECISION NOT TO PARTICIPATE IN IEP WILL PROVIDE MORE AMMUNITION FOR OPPONENTS OF BRITISH MEMBERSHIP. "TIMES" ARTICLE STATES BRITAIN AND NORWAY ARE ONLY EUROPEAN MEMBERS OF IEP WHICH WOULD HAVE BEEN SELF-SUFFICIENT BY 1980, AND EVEN BEFORE NORWAY'S PULLOUT, OPPONENTS SUCH AS LORD KENNET WERE CONCERNED ABOUT POSSIBLE LOSS OF SOVEREIGNTY OVER NORTH SEA OIL RESERVES. DURING LENGTHY DESCRIPTION OF MAIN PROVISIONS OF IEP AND THEIR EFFECTS, "TIMES" NOTES COMBINATION OF US AND JAPAN, AS TWO LARGEST INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS, COULD BRING SCHEME INTO OPERATION IN OPPOSITION TO REMAINDER. IT IS MADE CLEAR, HOWEVER, BRITAIN WOULD NOT BE REQUIRED TO INCREASE ITS NORTH SEA OUTPUT TO MAKE GOOD DEFICIENCIES IN IMPORTS TO OTHER PARTICIPANTS. END UNCLASSIFIED

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3. TAYLOR (UNDER SECRETARY, ENERGY) IS FAIRLY CONFIDENT HMG WILL BE ABLE TO HANDLE ANY PARLIAMENTARY DIFFICULTIES ON BASIS OF EXTENSIVE BRIEFING AND SOLID ARGUMENTATION IN DEBATE. HE STRESSED HOWEVER THAT, AS POINTED OUT IN RECENT MEETINGS WITH DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS, NATURE OF CONGRESSIONAL BRIEFINGS AND DEBATE COULD WELL AFFECT OUTCOME IN BRITAIN. EARLY ANNOUNCEMENT OF CANADIAN APPROVAL OF IEP WOULD BE HELPFUL FACTOR.

4. TAYLOR NOTES IEP IS LIKELY TO FORMALLY "LAY BEFORE PARLIAMENT" SOON AFTER NOVEMBER 18. AT SOME POINT THEREAFTER, FULLSCALE DEBATE AND VOTE ON THE IEP PROBABLY WILL TAKE PLACE, ALTHOUGH THESE ARE NOT CONSTITUTIONALLY REQUIRED. TAYLOR OPINED IT WOULD BE BETTER FOR LONG-TERM IMPLEMENTATION OF IEP IF PARLIAMENT WERE THOROUGHLY EXPOSED TO AND VOTED ON IEP.

5. LORD KENNET, FORMERLY WAYLAND YOUNG, WAS JUNIOR MINISTER IN FCO IN PREVIOUS LABOR GOVERNMENT DURING

1964 - 1965. HE IS NOT CONSIDERED TO SWING MUCH WEIGHT IN PARLIAMENT. END CONFIDENTIAL
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